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Title: Need to provide financial assistance to sagging Cashew Industry in Kerala.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (MAVELIKARA): Sir, the Cashew Industry contributes significantly to the foreign exchange earnings of the country as well as revenue from the internal trade.

This sector provides employment to about three lakh people, a majority being women from the economically backward sections. Seventy-five per cent of the total Cashew Industry is based in the State of Kerala.

Since the Cashew Industry is a vital sector for providing employment to the poor sections and also in generating revenue earnings for the nation, there is an urgent need to modernize the existing Industry in order to cater to the increased requirements.

Three-fourth of the Industry is being located in Kerala. So, it is imperative to have a Cashew Board based in the State to evolve comprehensive development schemes for the Industry and for the development of the sector. Hence, the Central Government should provide sufficient financial assistance to the tune of Rs.200 crore to the State Government.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take urgent and favourable decisions in the above matter. Thank you.